

LOUISIANA WILD LIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

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P R O C E E D I N G S

BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, February 19, 1974

10:00 o'clock a.m.

H. C. LUTTRELL, Chairman

Wild Life and Fisheries
Building
400 Royal Street
New Orleans, Louisiana

Kathryn G. Chamberlin,
Reporter



Helen R. Dietrich, Inc.
Stenotypists

333 ST. CHARLES AVENUE, SUITE 1221
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70130 • (504) 524-4787

P R O C E E D I N G S

. . . The regular monthly Board Meeting of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission was held on Tuesday, February 19, 1974, at 10:00 o'clock a.m., at the Wild Life and Fisheries Building, 400 Royal Street, New Orleans, Louisiana, H. C. Luttrell, Chairman, presiding.

PRESENT WERE:

H. C. LUTTRELL, Chairman
 M. DUPUY, JR., Vice-Chairman
 J. B. ANGELLE, Director
 D. G. BERRY, Member
 J. G. JONES, Member
 J. H. LAPEYRE, Member
 J. THOMPSON, Member
 D. F. WILLE, Member

A G E N D A

DR. LYLE ST. AMANT

1. Renewal of permit to dredge for fill material from the Mississippi River at Hahnville, Louisiana, by T. L. James & Company. (5)
2. Reevaluation of environmental assessment of



Bayou Bouef, Chein and Black.

(7)

MR. HARRY SCHAFER

3. Authorization for Director to sign Act of
Sale for purchase of land in New Iberia
area for district office. (14)
4. Request from Plaquemines Parish Commission
Council for permit for the operation of
the Parish fresh water syphons at lower
Belair. (18)

MR. ALLAN ENSMINGER

5. Consideration of request for a geophysical
lease on Rockefeller Refuge. (24)

MR. TED O'NEIL

6. Extension of trapping season. (27)

MR. KENNETH SMITH

7. Discuss the Louisiana Delta Plantation plans
for diverting agricultural runoff into
Red River. (37)

MR. RICHARD YANCEY

8. Resolution to remove alligator from endangered
species list for Southwest Louisiana. (42)
9. Request Secretary of Interior to request that
the alligator be removed from Appendices I (55)



on the International Trade Convention List.

MR. JOE HERRING

- 10. Discussion of turkey season and possible closure in flooded areas. (59)
- 11. Consideration of request to allow the taking of turkeys with rifles. (63)

OTHER BUSINESS

- 12. Election of Vice-Chairman. (70)
- 13. Set dates for April and June meetings. (22; 72)
- 14. Discussion of steel trap law. (57)
- 15. Discussion of ICC regulations concerning shipment of nutria meat. (72)
- 16. Discussion of utilization of industrial fisheries (croaker, silver eel, etc.) (74)
- 17. Wildlife Federation Convention, Conference. (91)

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CHAIRMAN H. C. LUTTRELL: I would like to open the meeting by introducing our newest member and say again how welcome he is on the Board, Mr. Jean LaPeyre, taking Mr. Autin's place. Mr. LaPeyre.

MR. JEAN LAPEYRE: Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Dr. St. Amant, we are ready for your report.



DR. LYLE S. ST. AMANT: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission, we have two items on the agenda. The first one is a request for renewal of a permit by T. L. James & Company to dredge for fill material and sand in the Mississippi River near Hahnville. This permit has been in operation for five years and the material is principally being used to build roadbed for Highway I-10.

They have asked to extend this and we have examined it and recommend that the permit be extended or renewed. However, it should now contain the new royalty rate of five cents and at the direction of the Commission a new permit would be for the period of one year rather than five years.

MR. DOYLE G. BERRY: So move.

MR. MARC DUPUY: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Berry, seconded by Mr. Dupuy. All in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: All opposed?

(No response)

Hearing no opposition, so ordered.



(The full text of the
resolution is here made
a part of the record.)

BE IT RESOLVED that the
Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries
Commission does hereby grant permission
to T. L. James & Company, Inc., to dredge
fill material from the Mississippi River
at Hahnville, Louisiana, renewing their
permit expiring March 21, 1974, for a
period of one year only until March 21,
1975, at a royalty of five cents per
cubic yard, and subject to renewal if
granted by the Commission.

DR. ST. AMANT: Yesterday Mr. Landry from
Houma appeared before the Board in informal session
and requested that we do certain reevaluation of our
environmental assessment of the Bayou Bouef, Chien
and Black River project in the Morgan City area.
Today we have Mr. J. M. Robinson from Houma who
has come in to substitute for Mr. Landry.

After the discussion yesterday we agreed
that our original assessment was made back in 1971.



At that time we did not have as much field data or anyone working in the area and it might be a wise idea to go back and reassess our original statement on this. This original statement was in general in opposition to the project. It did call attention to a number of problems that probably would develop in the way of saltwater intrusion and turbidity and changes in water circulation. Since we have people in the area we feel it would be wise to go back and reevaluate and identify the present information we have from the field data and bring this report up to date.

This is my recommendation at this time. When the reevaluation is completed, we would propose to bring it back to the Director and the Commission and if they so desire at that time they may take any particular action on it that would be appropriate. Mr. Robinson would like to have something to say before you make any decision today. Mr. Robinson.

MR. J. M. ROBINSON: I am J. M. Robinson from Houma, representing the South Louisiana Environmental Council. I want to thank the Commission



for allowing me to appear here for a few minutes to maybe review some of the things that possibly you already know. I know you have a large agenda, but we feel we have something very, very important over there and we don't want to leave any stone unturned that will help us to completely evaluate this thing.

We feel like a lot more study should be done. We, representing the Council and other organizations in Terrebonne Parish, want to thank the Commission for the stand they took on the Cache River Project in Arkansas. We think that is a big step in our favor.

We have this Bayou Bouef-Chein-Black project that the Corps of Engineers has worked on and has filed an impact statement. We feel that their statement has left much to be done and to be said for both sides. In Terrebonne Parish, the Terrebonne Parish School Board has considered and voted against the project. The Terrebonne Parish Police Jury has voted against the project. The City of Houma City Council has voted to sue the Corps of Engineers for an injunction to stay, to keep the work from progressing until further study can be done, and the



South Louisiana Environmental Council also is in the process of filing suit against this same project. We are not against this just to have something to do, believe me.

I would like to quote just quickly here one of the reasons we are partly against it. This was in the Houma paper, which was the report they got from the Corps of Engineers, and I am quoting from them. It is quite long but I am taking just a couple of paragraphs. One of them starts, "An estimated 852,600 pounds per year of commercial industrial fishery products, 2646 man-days per year of hunting and other wildlife-oriented recreations, 6,321 pelts per year and 22,050 pounds of meat" -- now they don't define the meat, various kinds of meat -- "will be lost due to the implementation of the proposed project." That is their version of it.

Another paragraph here, "The wetland environment now existing both in the wooded swamps and marshes would be converted to a higher, drier site capable of supporting upland species of wildlife when revegetation occurs." The statement points out but continues to say that "further



maintenance at four-year intervals will modify this by covering this vegetation, thus requiring revegetation."

Now, gentlemen, to me they kind of talk against themselves in a way because they say it will support dry land animals and so forth after it is revegetated and then turn right around and admit that every four years they are going to cover up that vegetation. They are going to have to find some fast-growing vegetation, I think, to get it up and then get the animals there accustomed to it and progressing and then turn around in four years and all of that is covered up and done away with.

One of the things that some of those who are in favor and, believe me, they are in a minority, they say that we are against industry. We are certainly not against industry. Most of us, and when I say "most," I am talking about the citizenship of Terrebonne Parish, and other parishes in that area, the average citizen by a large majority is against this thing, until it can be proven that it won't hurt us.

You know, gentlemen, we have the Houma



navigation canal in Terrebonne Parish, right down through the center of the parish. It was dredged some twenty years ago and I can show you people who were natives of Terrebonne Parish before that for many years who never had the water conditions that they have had since that happened, since that canal was dredged. They have water in their yards now that they never had before. They have many other problems they never had before. They have lost considerable amounts of farming land and pasture land, and it has to be attributed to that canal, because there wasn't enough study and possibly the canal could be utilized and controlled better than it is.

That is the kind of thing we are hoping to get from a reevaluation and more study out of this thing, so that if it is done, it will be done to the best for everyone. The Corps of Engineers, as I understand it and as we have been told, has to come up with a cost-benefit ratio. They would like to have it, I understand, around one-to-five, something like that. The best they can come up here with is one-to-1.2, without even taking into consideration the value of the marsh that they will



destroy. They don't charge anything to that at all. By their own admission, they are going to destroy 7,300 acres, completely gone, and that has a yearly value of a return of from \$55 per year per acre to \$32,000 per year per acre. That \$32,000 was concluded by one of the noted biologists in the United States, so there is a cost-plus basis there. There is a lot of damage to be done.

Lastly, we feel that with seeing the water that has been carried into Terrebonne Parish by the navigation canal during storms, there is no way that we can dig a 20-foot deep by 400-foot wide channel and not have a flood threat when we have a high tide caused from a storm. We submit that at least if they have got to dig that channel, if we have to have it, then let's put locks in it, something to control it, so that the people of Terrebonne Parish won't get hurt any worse than they are now.

Thank you for your time very much, gentlemen, and the consideration that we hope you will give us. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Robinson.



Is there anyone else who cares to be heard?

Doctor, do you have some more?

DR. ST. AMANT: No, sir.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard Dr. St. Amant's recommendation. What is your pleasure?

MR. LAPEYRE: I so move.

MR. JONES: What are we moving? To re-evaluate the environmental assessment?

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes. Dr. St. Amant.

DR. ST. AMANT: We agreed yesterday. I don't think you need a resolution. If it pleases the Commission and you so direct through Mr. Angelle, we will reevaluate this and bring the reevaluation back to the Director and to the Commission when we complete it, and at that time you can assess it and if you would like to take action on this, a resolution either for or against, or some kind of moratorium, that would be the proper time, I think.

THE CHAIRMAN: That is fine, Dr. St. Amant.

MR. DOYLE BERRY: I was going to say, Mr. Chairman, since I am a member of the Morgan City Harbor and Terminal District Board, I would like the record to reflect that I voted neither nay nor aye



for it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Berry. Let the record show that, please. Now, Mr. Schafer.

MR. HARRY SCHAFFER: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission, the Oyster Division has been working with the attorney, Peter Duffy, in trying to secure a piece of property in the New Iberia area for a district office. The land that we wanted to buy is now clear. It has been tied up in a divorce suit, and Peter Duffy tells me that this land is now clear. It is approximately one acre in area and it is at the junction of Darnell Road and U.S. 90, which is right south of the city. It is about ten minutes from downtown New Iberia and it is also on the south side, which gives us access to the coast, where we keep our boats and have our research projects.

The land is selling for \$5,500 and we do intend to build an office there for the Commission, for the Oyster Division and Enforcement and any other division that would like to have some space in it. I would recommend that the Commission approve and agree to purchase this land and further



authorize the Director to sign the Act of Sale.

DIRECTOR J. B. ANGELLE: Harry, do you feel this is the most appropriate location for a district office for the Oyster Division in that particular area?

MR. SCHAFER: I do, Burt. We looked around this whole area from Abbeville all the way over, lots of property in New Iberia, and this seemed to be the best buy that we came up with.

MR. WILLE: What is the price?

MR. SCHAFER: The price of the property? \$5,500 for a little bit more than an acre.

MR. JONES: What would be your nearest office, other office, that you have?

MR. SCHAFER: Let's see. We have Lake Charles to the west and Houma, Bourg, to the east.

MR. WILLE: I would like to make a motion that we approve the purchase as recommended by Mr. Schafer.

MR. BERRY: I will second that.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Wille, seconded by Mr. Berry. Those in favor, say aye.



IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Opposed, nay.

(No response)

So ordered.

(The full text of the
resolution is here made
a part of the record.)

WHEREAS, since 1971 the Division
of Oysters, Water Bottoms and Seafoods of
the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Com-
mission has maintained a district office
in New Iberia, and

WHEREAS, with a district office
located in this area, Commission personnel
are more readily afforded the opportunity
to conduct research projects in the imme-
diate vicinity as well as to assist
citizens of the State of Louisiana who
reside in the area, and

WHEREAS, a certain parcel of
land, located in New Iberia, is available
to the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries
Commission for purchase for the future



site of a district office,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED
that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries
Commission does hereby approve and agree
to purchase a certain parcel of land for
the total sum of FIVE THOUSAND FIVE
HUNDRED AND NO/100 (\$5,500.00) DOLLARS,
situated in the Parish of Iberia, State
of Louisiana, described as follows:

A PARCEL OF LAND in Section 9,
Township 13 South, Range 7 East,
in Iberia Parish, Louisiana.

Said land contains little more
than one (1) acre and having its
frontage on Darnell Road being
very near to but North of the
intersection of Darnell Road and
U.S. 90 and measuring approxi-
mately 225 feet front along said
Darnell Road by a depth on the
North side of 210 feet and by a
depth on the South side of 170
feet with a width in the rear



of 220 feet, all dimensions being more or less.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director be and is hereby authorized and empowered to sign any and all documents in connection therewith.

MR. SCHAFER: Mr. Chairman, the second item is a request from the Plaquemines Parish Commission Council for a permit to open their freshwater structure at White Ditch in Belair. This is an annual request that we bring. I have been in touch with the Health Department who will close the area because of the Mississippi water getting into the area. Plaquemines Parish has agreed to post signs and patrol the area with helicopter and boat.

I would recommend that the Commission grant permission to the Commission Council to open their freshwater structure.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there any discussion?

MR. JONES: I so move.

MR. THOMPSON: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Thompson. Those in favor,



say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Opposed, no.

(No response)

So ordered.

(The full text of the
resolution is here made
a part of the record.)

WHEREAS, salt water intrusion
in marshes that are oyster seed, waterfowl
and furbearer producing areas has resulted
in increased snail predation with a reduced
seed oyster production and decreased usage
by other wildlife resources, and

WHEREAS, the Plaquemines Parish
Commission Council has obligated itself
to do the following:

1. To mark the affected areas
to be closed with signs at
least 24 square inches,
reading "No Oyster Fishing
Until Notified. Area West
Closed. Boat-Air Patrol,



Syphons Running."

2. To obtain the consent for closure of the area from the affected oyster bottom lessees.
3. To maintain a boat and helicopter patrol to enforce the prohibition of no oyster fishing until the areas are clear as determined by the State Board of Health, and

WHEREAS, the Commission has received a request from the Plaquemines Parish Commission Council, dated February 8, 1974, to begin operating the Parish Fresh Water Syphons at lower Belair or White Ditch, east of the river in the Parish of Plaquemines, beginning February 20, 1974, and

WHEREAS, the State Board of Health will be requested to perform the necessary sampling after cessation of discharge to determine that these areas are clear for



reopening, approximately fourteen (14) to twenty (20) days later,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission at its regular monthly meeting, held on Tuesday, February 19, 1974, does hereby temporarily close the oyster fishing area described as follows: that the area east of the river, included within 89° 46' Longitude West and westward in Plaquemines Parish, as shown on plat of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission prepared by its Oyster Division, dated April 16, 1970, and copy of this is on file with said Commission and in the office of the Secretary of the Plaquemines Parish Commission Council. Said fresh water syphons are being opened during higher river stages for the purpose of introducing fresh water into this oyster growing area until such time as the State Board of Health approves reopening these areas for oyster fishing, such



action being contingent upon the Plaquemines Parish Commission Council meeting its responsibilities as included above in this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be referred to the Plaquemines Parish Commission Council, the State Board of Health and the Louisiana Oyster Dealers and Growers Association.

THE CHAIRMAN: While you are still up, will you discuss the April meeting for us, the setting of the April meeting?

MR. SCHAFER: Mr. Chairman, we are requesting a change of the April meeting this early because we would like to get some invitations out to the Natural Resources Committee of the House and Senate and invite them to our annual shrimp meeting with the shrimpers in order to set the shrimp opening date. This also gives us an extra week to gather data, and this is the crucial time when we get our most information, right there at the end. I would suggest that you move the meeting back from its regular date of April 22 and 23 to a



new date of April 29 and 30. We will try to have the shrimp hearing in New Orleans and invite all the shrimpers plus the legislative committees.

MR. JONES: Where will you have the meeting, in here?

MR. SCHAFER: Usually we have about 300 people. I doubt if we could have it in this building. The last time we had it in New Orleans, we had it out at the Hilton Inn across from the airport, which did very well out there. There is no parking problem or anything. I would suggest that we have it out there.

MR. DUPUY: Any police security that we can have? (Laughter)

MR. SCHAFER: I think Dr. St. Amant handles them pretty well; we won't need the police.

THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, you have heard the discussion. Do I have a motion?

MR. LAPEYRE: I so move.

MR. WILLE: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Lapeyre, seconded by Mr. Wille. Those in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.



THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

(No response)

So ordered.

MR. SCHAFER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: All right, Mr. Ensminger.

MR. ALLAN ENSMINGER: Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen of the Commission, we have been notified by the State Mineral Board that they have received a request for a geophysical lease on Rockefeller. The area that has been petitioned to the Mineral Board is about 24,000 acres in size and it is on the eastern end of the refuge.

Primarily all of the property will be in Vermilion Parish, with about four or five sections over in Cameron. This lease would be handled at their April docket sale and, of course, the successful bidder would have a one-year primary term in which to explore the area and then he would have the option of nominating three 2,500-acre tracts within the geophysical area. These tracts would be put back up by the State Mineral Board for competitive bidding. Of course, these tracts would be developed eventually under rules and regulations



promulgated by the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission and the Mineral Board.

On this basis I would like to recommend that our Board concur with the State Mineral Board in putting this tract up for a geophysical program.

THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, you have heard the discussion. Any questions?

MR. DUPUY: I so move, Mr. Chairman.

MR. THOMPSON: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Marc Dupuy, seconded by Jimmy Thompson. All in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Opposed?

(No response)

So ordered.

The full text of the
resolution is here made
a part of the record.)

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission has been notified by the State Mineral Board that certain acreage on the eastern end of the



Rockefeller Refuge have been nominated for geophysical exploration, and

WHEREAS, this is unleased acreage, and

WHEREAS, funds received for the geophysical exploration would be credited to the Rockefeller fund,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does hereby concur that the State Mineral Board proceed with the advertisement for an exclusive geophysical lease on the acreage proposed. The exclusive geophysical shall be for a one-year term and the successful bidder shall have the option of nominating three 2,500 acre blocks to be subsequently leased through competitive bidding by the State Mineral Board for mineral exploration and production, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director is hereby authorized to sign all documents with regard to this geophysical permit.



CHAIRMAN LUTTRELL: Mr. O'Neil.

MR. TED O'NEIL: Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen of the Commission, we have had several requests but not a great many for an extension of the trapping season. Our surveys in the fall and during the winter show that there was a shortage of fur-bearers. However, the advance in price, the good price received for all fur-bearers, resulted in tremendous effort on the part of the trappers and I think that we should close the season on the 28th as directed by the law.

MR. JONES: I so move.

MR. THOMPSON: Second.

CHAIRMAN LUTTRELL: I believe Mr. Marler wants to extend it. We had better hear from him.

MR. JONES: Yes, but I want to make that motion. I want to show Mr. Marler I am a fair man.
(Laughter)

MR. BUTLEY MARLER: Mr. Chairman --

MR. JONES: Watch it now, Butley. You might talk yourself out of something or into something now. We are with you right now.

MR. MARLER: Let me say this, though, Mr.



Chairman and Members of the Commission. Not only do we want --

CHAIRMAN LUTTRELL: State your name and who you represent, please.

MR. MARLER: Butley Marler, Marler, Incorporated. One of the reasons I am up here is to ask you to give us some good strict enforcement. Ask your Enforcement Division to go into all the fur-producing parishes and give us some good strong enforcement. Because of the fact, just like Mr. O'Neil told you, the prices of nutria range anywhere from \$7 in Cameron to \$6.50 and \$6.25 to \$6.00 in east Louisiana, and naturally you can see that a trapper or anyone, not only trappers but anyone who wishes to make a few dollars, can go out at night or go out during the day and shoot them or kill them or trap them and put them in their deep-freeze until next year, hoping that the price will be the same next year.

Of course, we in the fur industry feel as though we had a lot to do with the price coming up. Of course, the price of everything went up, but we do realize that we worked for years and years to



get the nutria where it is and we want to keep it there and we want to keep our production up.

We certainly appreciate the position that the Commission is taking. Thank you, gentlemen.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Mr. Marler, I would like on behalf of the Commission and the Enforcement Division to say that we will increase our efforts as far as dealing with the outlaws. However, we also ask the fur buyers to refuse to buy some of these pelts during the closed season, which would help us in the Enforcement Division. (Laughter).

MR. MARLER: Let me get back to this. Let me suggest to the Commission. I don't know how the laws are written in the Constitution, but may I suggest to you that you request all fur buyers and all fur dealers who have furs left in the State of Louisiana on March 15 to make a sworn statement to the Department. Gentlemen, that is one way you can stop it.

MR. JONES: Good idea.

MR. SONNY SUMMERSGILL: There are several producers that on certain days capture too many animals and they put them in the freezer green and



and on their light days they will go into the freezer and take them out. How do you propose to handle that?

MR. MARLER: If they will make a statement on March 15 how many they have in the deep freeze, I think the Department will accept that.

MR. SONNY SUMMERSGILL: I know I have got many, many sacks from the pelting houses.

MR. MARLER: I realize that. That's why I said March 15; you could make it March 5, too, you know, but that is why I said March 15. We will give them a few days there to make up their mind how many they do have, and that is why I say March 15. (Laughter) I think it is a good idea that the department take that under consideration and ask them for, like I say, a sworn statement through the mail. I'll give you mine.

MR. WILLE: I would like to move that we receive a sworn statement from the various buyers as of March 15, and dealers, as of March 15, as to their inventory of pelts on hand.

MR. SUMMERSGILL: I think Mr. Jerry Jones ought to take care of that.

MR. JONES: Second.



MR. JONES: Butley, I believe I have changed my mind now about that extension.

MR. BERRY: Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a motion --

CHAIRMAN LUTTRELL: We have a motion and a second before the house on the floor now. Don, would you state your motion again, please?

MR. WILLE: Right. That the various fur buyers and dealers and so forth give us a sworn statement prior to or by March 15 as to the number of pelts on hand and then we can take it from there, because the penalty is the same for the seller as it is for the buyer.

CHAIRMAN LUTTRELL: Gentlemen, you hear the motion. Is there any discussion?

MR. BERRY: I would like to amend that motion, that this information be furnished to Mr. Ted O'Neil for his check-up and follow-up on it. I would like him to check some of these buyers and make sure they have the inventory on hand they say they have got.

CHAIRMAN LUTTRELL: We have an amendment. Do we have a second to the amendment?



MR. DUPUY: I will second the amendment.

CHAIRMAN LUTTRELL: Any other discussion?

MR. SUMMERSGILL: I would like Mr. Marler to explain that it is very difficult to determine how many pelts you have in a sack when they are frozen, unless the trapper himself or the fur house actually counted when they put them in. They just fill up a sack and throw them in.

MR. MARLER: I didn't include the trappers but they should be included. I said the fur dealers.

MR. SUMMERSGILL: When you buy, for example, you might have 500 sacks of skins.

MR. MARLER: Well, I think a pretty good guess, how many in a sack.

MR. WILLE: We are not going to quibble over 15 or 20 pelts, I don't think.

MR. THOMPSON: I think you have made your point.

MR. DUPUY: I think that is why you are giving them extra time to make up their minds to decide how many they do in fact have.

CHAIRMAN LUTTRELL: Any other discussion?



Mr. Berry, will you restate your amendment?

MR. BERRY: The amendment is that this information be furnished to Mr. Ted O'Neil and that he be directed to check with the fur dealers and buyers to ascertain what they actually have on hand and see if it corresponds to what they turned in.

MR. DUPUY: I seconded that.

CHAIRMAN LUTTRELL: You have heard the amendment. Those in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRMAN LUTTRELL: Opposed, no.

(No response)

The ayes have it. Now we will vote on the motion. Will you restate your motion, Mr. Wille?

MR. WILLE: With the modification from Mr. Berry that the various fur dealers and buyers throughout the state that deal in the pelts furnish the Commission with a sworn statement, or to be more specific, Mr. O'Neil, of the Fur Division of Wild Life and Fisheries, with a sworn statement by the 15th of March as to number of pelts on hand.

CHAIRMAN LUTTRELL: Those people in



favor of the motion as amended by Mr. Berry, let it be known by saying aye.

MR. MARLER: Mr. Chairman, it is understood that we are talking about the furs in the State?

CHAIRMAN LUTTRELL: Right, right. The discussion is over with, gentlemen. I call for a vote again. Those in favor of the motion as amended by Mr. Berry, let it be known by saying aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRMAN LUTTRELL: Opposed, no.

(No response)

No opposition. It is so ordered.

MR. O'NEIL: I think I should suggest that this amendment get ample publicity so that the dealers and buyers will know what we are doing.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: I believe Mac can handle that.

MR. SUMMERGILL: Some of these guys don't read newspapers and it might be good for the agents to drop by the various houses and tell them that they have to report exactly what they have



on hand.

MR. O'NEIL: I can get out a letter to each buyer and each dealer.

MR. WILLE: We are not asking the trappers, just the dealers and the buyers.

CHAIRMAN LUTTRELL: I think you can handle that. Mr. Smith, Kenny Smith.

MR. JONES: We didn't do anything about the trapping season, did we?

MS. PENDLEY: No. You have a motion on the floor.

CHAIRMAN LUTTRELL: Mr. Smith, hold it just a second. In all of that --

MR. JONES: In view of the recommendation of Mr. Marler, I move that the trapping season terminate on the dates that it was decided it should terminate, the 28th.

MR. BERRY: Second.

CHAIRMAN LUTTRELL: It has been moved by Mr. Jones and seconded by Mr. Berry that the trapping season end as stated, on the 28th. Those in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.



CHAIRMAN LUTTRELL: Those opposed?

(No response)

No opposition. So ordered.

(The full text of the
resolution is here made
a part of the record.)

WHEREAS, the Louisiana trapping
season for 1973-74 closed on February 28,
1974, and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wild Life
and Fisheries Commission desires a strict
enforcement of the closed season,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED
that in an effort toward better enforce-
ment of the trapping laws, the Louisiana
Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does
hereby direct the fur dealers and fur
buyers throughout the state to furnish
a sworn statement to Mr. Ted O'Neil,
Chief of the Fur Division, as to the
number of fur pelts on hand within
the State of Louisiana as of March 15,
1974.



THE CHAIRMAN: Now, Mr. Smith.

MR. KENNETH SMITH: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission, we have been requested by the Attorney General's Office that a statement be made to their agency regarding a plan that has been furnished by the Louisiana Delta Plantation for drainage of 30,000 acres of agricultural land right below Saline-Larto Lake. Runoff from this agricultural property has been a problem in this Larto-Saline complex and these people have come up with a proposal to divert this water into Red River and out of the fishery in Saline-Larto Lake.

We have prepared comments on this. It has been reviewed by members of all divisions that have been involved in this matter and I would be happy to discuss any details of the plan that you wish. I think at this point it would be up to the Commission how they want to handle this matter.

MR. DUPUY: Mr. Smith, you have examined the engineering data that has been submitted to the Commission, you have been in meetings with representatives of Saline Lake Farms, Incorporated, and Louisiana Delta, this proposed purchaser, and with,



of course, the Commission members and representatives. Is it your conclusion that from a fish and wildlife standpoint that the plan, based on the present engineering, appears to be sound and would provide an improvement over the existing conditions?

MR. SMITH: It would, definitely, provide an improvement, Mr. Dupuy. We, of course, have not examined the engineering data. We are assuming that the information furnished will all work as they say it will but it certainly would put more of the silt load and possibly pesticides in the Red River. Certainly it would be a vast improvement over the situation that exists up there in Larto Lake area now. I would say it would be a definite improvement if this plan works as they say it will, to the fish and wildlife interests in this area.

MR. DUPUY: Mr. Chairman, based upon the engineering data that has been proposed and submitted, I would like to move that we approve the plan insofar as protection of the environment and the fish and wildlife resources are concerned.

THE CHAIRMAN: Do I have a second?

MR. WILLE: Could I just ask this?



Kenneth, has all the research and everything been done in this indicate that it definitely would be an improvement to the area, or do we know? Is there just a guess that it might improve?

MR. SMITH: Based on the best judgment we can make at this time, Mr. Wille, it would be. We can't say positively that everything will work exactly as they say it will. We know there have been problems in that area. We know that it appears to be a well-meant, serious proposal on the part of the agricultural people up here to improve the situation and it appears that there is a good chance it will work. We couldn't guarantee anything because we don't know the engineering aspects of it.

MR. WILLE: All right. Let me ask this. Do we have any objections on the floor? (No response) Then I will second the motion.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Dupuy and --

MR. JONES: Could I ask one question, please? So that we make it abundantly clear, it is my understanding that what the Attorney General is asking us is not for us to decide what he is



going to do with the lawsuit but only is he asking us to allow our people to give them technical advice, but the ultimate decision as to whether he is going to accept it or not is going to be a decision by the Attorney General.

MR. SMITH: Yes, sir, that is correct.

THE CHAIRMAN: That is correct. Now are you ready for the vote? The question has been called for and discussion should cease. All in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: All opposed, no.

(No response)

So ordered.

(The full text of the resolution is here made a part of the record.)

WHEREAS, the Attorney General's office has requested the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission to provide comments on the effects of a drainage plan on fish and wildlife which has been proposed by Mr. Norman Haig, Land Manager



of the Louisiana Delta Plantation in Avoyelles Parish, and

WHEREAS, the primary feature of this plan would be to divert turbid agricultural runoff directly into Red River rather than pumping this water over the north levee and into Saline-Larto Lake complex, and

WHEREAS, the plan has been reviewed by biologists of the various divisions of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission who have been involved in problems which have arisen as a result of the above-mentioned runoff, and

WHEREAS, the plan appears to be sound from a fish and wildlife standpoint, assuming the engineering aspects are as they are represented to be, and would provide much improvement over existing conditions,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED
that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries



Commission provide the above requested statement regarding the fish and wildlife aspects of the proposed plan.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Yancey.

MR. RICHARD YANCEY: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission, the President has signed into law the Endangered Species Act. Congress approved that finally in December of 1973. One of the principal effects that this new law will have on the Commission is -- and I will say adverse effects -- that authority to manage the alligator has shifted from this Commission to Secretary of the Interior and to the Secretary of Commerce.

This will mean that we will be unable to establish an alligator season in 1974, unless we can prevail on these two Secretaries to remove this animal from the endangered species list in that part of Louisiana where we have data to show that it should be removed, which is Southwest Louisiana.

We would recommend at this time that you adopt and approve a resolution that we would forward to both Secretaries through the Governor of the



State, requesting that the alligator be removed from the endangered species and the threatened category in Southwest Louisiana and it be taken off the endangered species list but left in the threatened category in Southeast Louisiana, and left as it is in North Louisiana. We have this resolution drafted and in essence this is what it would do.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any discussion?

MR. LAPEYRE: I would like to ask what would happen in Southwest Louisiana if this action were not taken, if they were not to be removed from the endangered species list.

MR. YANCEY: Well, the people over in Southwest Louisiana are working with the courts and the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and have done a tremendously good job in the last 13 or 14 years in restoring alligator populations. There have been tremendous enforcement efforts made there to eliminate poaching. Those people that have been caught outlawing have been dealt with rather severely by the courts. The Commission has had probably the best research program of any state or any nation



regarding these animals. We have trapped and transplanted about 4,000 of these animals. The result of all this effort is that alligator populations have built up tremendously. They are back at harvestable levels. Their numbers should be controlled because of adverse effects on furbearing animal populations over there, and the way it has been handled, though, as a reward now the authority to handle these animals has gone from this state over to the federal government.

During the years that all this work was going on, the people over in Southwest Louisiana were told that you cooperate in this thing and when these populations are back at a high level, then we are going to reopen the season and we are going to allow you an opportunity to harvest these animals on a sustained yield basis. It can be an important economic factor. It can be important to the marsh environment. But now we have suddenly come up with this change, which we feel is going to have an adverse effect on alligators. If their numbers are not controlled, then they are going to probably be viewed as some sort of pest by some of the marsh



land owners and trappers over in that part of the state because they do consume rather large numbers of furbearing animals.

I think we are all aware of the fact that the Commission, several members of this Commission, went to Washington last year and met with representatives of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife and tried to get this animal off the endangered species list, realizing that this bill was going to become law. It was a motherhood type bill and there has been a lot of newspaper talk about endangered species and the problems we have with them and we knew it was going to become law. We tried to get it straightened out before the bill was passed by Congress, but we weren't able to do so.

This is the dilemma we find ourselves in now. About ten days ago we got copies of this new act and after studying those, we realized that the only way we can go ahead and properly manage these animals is to follow the route that we are proposing, which is to try to get the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce to go along



with taking the animal off the endangered species list in that part of the state where we have data to show that it should not be on the list.

MR. BERRY: Just how many nutria would you estimate that an alligator would eat in a year?

MR. YANCEY: Well, Allen, would you have any idea, or Ted may have a figure on this? It is quite a large number.

MR. ENSMINGER: Well, a big alligator, an eight or ten-foot alligator, will consume any nutria that he comes in contact with. From the data that we have collected from some of the stomach analyses, he evidently feeds on nutria quite commonly, because of the fur that is in that stomach and particles of bone. The bones and teeth are retained in that alligator's stomach for only a short period of time, so based on the stomachs that we received in these last two alligator seasons, it is conceivable that they probably will feed on from 150 to 300 nutria a year.

MR. BERRY: The economics is not only on the side of the alligator, is it? You look at 200 nutria worth \$6 apiece, that's \$1,200 a year, and



in five years an alligator has eaten \$6,000 worth of nutria, and what's he worth?

MR. ENSMINGER: Well, he's worth \$14 a foot.

MR. BERRY: That's poor economics, isn't it?

MR. ENSMINGER: There again, this is the very thing Mr. Yancey is pointing out, that these marsh owners and trappers who depend on their income from these marshes have got to be given some incentive to manage these alligators.

MR. YANCEY: When you are dealing with any wildlife population, these populations should be maintained in balance with other forms of wildlife. This is the whole objective of wildlife management. Utilize surpluses, keep each animal population in balance with the other animal populations that occupy the same area.

We find ourselves in a real dilemma and the only way we see that we can work ourselves out of this is to try to get them to go along with these resolutions up there.

MR. BERRY: How many duck nests do you



think the alligators destroy? How many eggs do you think the alligator eats in the duck season?

MR. YANCEY: Well, they feed on young mottled ducks and young wood ducks. These are the resident ducks that we have here in Louisiana during the summer months when the alligators are out and feeding very heavily on other types of life. Of course, they also feed on wading birds, just about anything they can catch to eat.

MR. BERRY: How about small deer?

MR. YANCEY: The remains of deer have been found in the stomachs of alligators. We don't think there is any number of them consumed by alligators but there are a few.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there any other discussion? Do I have a motion?

MR. JONES: I so move.

MR. WILLE: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Wille. All in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Opposed, no.

(No response)



THE CHAIRMAN: So ordered.

(The full text of the
resolution is here made
a part of the record.)

WHEREAS, the Endangered Species
Act of 1973, Public Law 93-205, was passed
by the Congress and approved by the Presi-
dent, and

WHEREAS, it is our interpreta-
tion that provisions are written into
Public Law 93-205 (Sections 4 and 6)
which allow individual states to petition
for reclassification of certain species
when appropriate; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana has for the
past 14 years undertaken an aggressive
alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*)
management program, and

WHEREAS, effective state and
federal legislation has been enacted
that will insure the maintenance of
alligator populations at favorable
levels, and



WHEREAS, legislation has been complimented in Louisiana by strict law enforcement, excellent cooperation on the part of the courts, closed hunting seasons since 1965, extensive restocking of depleted areas, and research by Commission biologists, and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission has, during the past two years, successfully demonstrated that a periodic commercial harvest, based upon comprehensive population inventories, can be closely controlled, and

WHEREAS, alligators are a renewable resource and should be managed on a sustained yield basis thereby providing economic incentive for preserving marshlands, and

WHEREAS, the Alligator Committee of the Southeastern Association of Game and Fish Commissioners has promulgated an alligator recovery plan for Louisiana and the Southeastern United States, and



WHEREAS, Louisiana has established a nonpartisan Alligator Advisory Committee to monitor and direct activities associated with the management of the American alligator,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission petitions the Secretary of the Interior through the Governor of the State of Louisiana to conduct a review of the current list of endangered species; specifically with respect to the status of the American alligator, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission through the Governor of Louisiana requests that, with respect to Louisiana, the American alligator be reclassified as follows:

1. That in the southwestern coastal marshes (Chenier plain) of Louisiana
(description of area and



alligator population data presented in Appendix) the American alligator be removed from the Secretary of the Interior's list of threatened and endangered species.

2. That in the southcentral and southeastern coastal Louisiana marshes (description of area and alligator population data presented in Appendix) the American alligator be classified as a threatened species.
3. That throughout the remainder of the state the classification of the American alligator remain unchanged.

APPENDIX

Location of Southwest Louisiana Marshes

(Chenier Plain) (Includes Portions of Calcasieu, Cameron and Vermilion Parishes).

Includes all marshlands from the Texas state line eastward to Vermilion Bay and north of



the Gulf of Mexico and south of Interstate Highway 10 from the Texas line to the junction of State Highway 14 and thence south of State Highway 14 from Lake Charles to Delcambre. Total area - 1,144,590 acres. (Area outlined in orange on marsh type map.)

Location of Southcentral and Southeastern Coastal Marshes (sub-Delta and Active Delta)

South of State Highway 14 from New Iberia Parish line to junction with United States Highway 90. Thence south of United States Highway 90 from New Iberia to United States Highway 61 (except a small parcel of marsh adjacent to and north of United States Highway 90 in St. Charles and St. John the Baptist Parishes), northeast of United States Highway 61 from New Orleans to LaPlace, east of United States Highway 51 from LaPlace to Hammond, south of Interstate Highway 12 from Hammond to the Mississippi state line. Bounded on the south by the Gulf of Mexico. Total area - 2,136,100 acres. (Area outlined in green on marsh type map.)



ALLIGATOR POPULATION ESTIMATE, BASED ON FOUR-YEAR AVERAGE,
FOR LOUISIANA'S COASTAL MARSHES

	Southwest La. Marshes (Chenier Plain)		Southcentral and South- east La. Marshes (Sub-Delta and Delta)	
	Private Ownership	Public Ownership	Private Ownership	Public Ownership
Population estimate, 4-year average for 1970-1973	54,623	45,808	44,745	20,615
Total acreage*	859,290	285,300	1,860,400	275,700
Number acres per alligator	15.7: 1	6.2: 1	41.6: 1	13.4: 1

* Excludes salt marsh type



MR. YANCEY: Now the second resolution that would relate to this same subject has to do with the International Trade Convention that is now virtually in effect. The State Department represented the United States in drafting this International Trade Convention and their principal advisors were the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife and the Audubon Society. They have bracketed this alligator in on Appendix I in this International Trade Convention, and any animal on Appendix I cannot move in international commerce.

In order that the alligator can remain a commercially important species, it has got to move in international commerce. The objective of this proposed resolution would be that we try to get the alligator taken off Appendix I so it could continue to move in international commerce. We would recommend that you all adopt a resolution requesting that the alligator be taken off the appendices in the International Trade Convention so that commerce between nations would not be prohibited on this particular animal.

MR. WILLE: I would like to move.



MR. THOMPSON: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Wille, seconded by Mr. Thompson. All in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Opposed, no.

(No response)

So ordered.

(The full text of the resolution is here made a part of the record.)

WHEREAS, the American alligator is listed on Appendix I of the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, and

WHEREAS, this classification prohibits an international trade in commercial alligator skins, and

WHEREAS, it is essential that the American alligator be available for international trade, and

WHEREAS, through wise wildlife management practices, the population



of alligators has been restored to a sustained yield level in a portion of southwest Louisiana, and

WHEREAS, the Endangered Species Act of 1973 covered by Public Law 93-205 provides for the declassification of a species of its range,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does hereby request that the Secretary of Interior move forward in requesting that the American alligator be moved from Appendix I to Appendix II on the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

MR. SUMMERSGILL: Mr. Yancey, could you bring us up to date on the status of the steel trap law, please?

MR. YANCEY: Well, there are several bills pending in Congress now that would prohibit the use of the leg-hold steel trap. These bills are types of legislation that we cannot ignore. We have got



to make our opposition known to the people in Congress. This has been done by the Commission and a lot of effort is going to have to be made to prevent this type of legislation from becoming law.

Now if it becomes law, we are going to be up against the same situation we are with the alligator. This means that we are not going to have a method of holding down populations of furbearing animals in many portions of this coastal marsh area, particularly the deep marshes, because this is the only kind of trap that will work in these deep marshes. If you develop overpopulations of these nutria and muskrat and so forth, then your marsh is devastated. You convert a vegetated area into a big wide-open lake area and this simply would be extremely harmful to the ecology of our marshlands.

MR. SUMMERGILL: We are keeping up to date and keeping posted?

MR. YANCEY: Yes. They are developing a great deal of support to pass this legislation which, if passed, would mean that our trappers could no longer use a leg-hold steel trap.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Yancey, could I ask



that since this is not on the agenda, if it is to be continued, will you pick it up in other business?

MR. YANCEY: Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN: Sorry, Mr. Summersgill.
Mr. Herring.

MR. JOE HERRING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
Due to some of the high flood conditions we are having along the Mississippi River and taking into consideration the poor turkey hatches that we had last year in 1973 in our turkey populations, we would like to recommend to the Commission that two areas be closed for turkey hunting this year.

These areas lie east of the main levee of the Mississippi River, and that is the part that is flooded, from the river to the levee, and these areas would be Area E, which is in East Carroll Parish, and Area F, which is in Tensas Parish. When I say Areas E and F, that is as described in the 1973-74 hunting brochures. Since these areas are under water at this time and the turkeys are displaced up on some of the ridges and the turkeys are having to stay in trees and other places at this time, I would like to recommend to the Commission



that these areas be closed for the '74 hunting season.

MR. WILLE: Joe, did we not have some discussion on this yesterday about the Pearl River area?

MR. HERRING: Yes, sir. The Pearl River area was considered yesterday in that but since we do have such a fluctuation in this area, the water can go up or down within a week's time, it is flooded now but there is a possibility that prior to the opening of the season it would be down and it could be back under water again. We are running about 60 days ahead of time on our high water and flood conditions at this time. These are a hardy type bird you find in that Pearl River area and they can get to some of the pine ridges in there.

MR. WILLE: Are we going to hold the decision on the Pearl River area? Is that my understanding, and take the Mississippi River area as closed season and hold decision on the Pearl River area and release it? Is that what the resolution was?

MR. HERRING: We would just go ahead and



leave it as is, open.

MR. WILLE: O.K., fine.

MR. BERRY: Mr. Chairman, I so move we close the area on the Mississippi River.

MR. DUPUY: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Berry, seconded by Mr. Dupuy. Those in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Opposed, no.

(No response)

It is so ordered.

(The full text of the resolution is here made a part of the record.)

WHEREAS the Mississippi River is flooding much of the turkey range along the eastern boundary of our state, and

WHEREAS, this same area was flooded in 1973 and displaced many of our turkeys,

WHEREAS, there was virtually no nesting success of wild turkey in



this area during 1973, and

WHEREAS, the high waters are now displacing turkey in the following described turkey hunting areas:

AREA E - March 23-April 14. That portion of East Carroll Parish lying east of the main line (new) Mississippi River levee from the Arkansas state line to the Madison Parish line.

AREA F - March 23-April 14. That portion of Tensas Parish bounded on the north by the Mississippi River levee, the east by Yucatan Lake and Yucatan Chute, the south by the Mississippi River, the west by the Mississippi River levee, and north to south from intersection of Dubbison line to Mississippi River,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that due to the high waters along the Mississippi River that are affecting our new turkey



populations and because there was little or no reproduction in 1973, that Areas E and F as described in the 1973-74 hunting and fishing brochure be closed for turkey hunting during the 1974 season.

MR. HERRING: Mr. Chairman, the next item we have, we have received four letters from the New Orleans area, requesting that the Commission permit the use of rifles in the hunting of turkeys during the 1974 season. We did have a rifle season in 1968-69 and due to some of the hunting factors we had at that time, we decided not to continue this type of hunting. At that time some of the reasons were that we were building up a turkey population in the state, states that do permit the use of rifles have more areas to hunt in and their turkey populations are higher than ours, and we have considered our turkey hunting as we have it right now as a quality type hunting rather than a quantity type because, using rifles, you can shoot them at great distances, either in fields or from trees and other place, so it is a quality type hunting.



In taking this into consideration, I would just like to ask of the Commission that we continue the season as it is set for this year, 1974, the use of shotguns only, and that we contact all the other states pertaining to the rifle season and see how it has worked out in their states. We realize a lot of times they do permit the use of rifles but it is not necessarily good. They would like to drop these regulations themselves sometimes, so we would like to get in touch with their technical people and come up with something when we do set the seasons for '74-75.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there any discussion?

MR. WILLE: Jerry had proposed a compromise yesterday at the meeting, Joe, of a poll throughout the state here and when we have our meeting in Alexandria to have the representatives up there and listen to their recommendations on hunting with rifles. Does that suit you?

MR. HERRING: Right. That would be good.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there any further discussion?

MR. EDGAR VEILLON: I believe some



additional thought was given to the gauge of shotgun and the number of size shot that could be used, although it is still just going to be shotgun. I thought that was something that was supposed to be given consideration to this year, although the rifle was still going to be banned this year.

I would like to know if any further thought was given to that because I think it was a point well taken. As the language stands right now regarding what turkeys can be hunted with, it just says shotgun. It does not exclude a .410 which is certainly not of the size that should be used for a bird of that size. I was just wondering if that was completely bypassed or did they give some thought to it.

MR. WILLE: Edgar, we overlooked that and you are absolutely right, I think it was brought up yesterday and we had discussed the use of a .410 and also the use of No. 8 and no buckshot and I think that a modification of the resolution should be in order and I would like to make that modification.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Wille, let's see if



we have anyone else who wants to discuss this.

MR. THOMPSON: I would probably oppose that. I would like to request that nothing be done on that this year and some study be put into it, if you are going to go into the minute detail of hunting. I can agree with Edgar in reference to the .410. There is a possibility of crippling losses with a .410, as there is with all shotguns. I can personally attest to that. In the hands of a proper person, a .410 is just as good as a rifle.

Also, yesterday it was recommended that maybe the size of the shell be limited to 6's and not even any 4's, and most turkey hunters that I know, I would say most of them or the major portion, and probably all of them, shoot sixes backed up with fours.

I would hate to see us getting into limiting the size shell that we use in our shotguns at this time. I probably would go along if we wanted to eliminate the .410. The only place that I see that you would hurt a person with a .410 is that sportsman who has become the ultimate in shot-gun manipulating, an expert, who would want to use



a .410, as many people do. You see people shooting dove with a .410. Well, I am not of that quality, so I couldn't see it, but there are a few that we would hurt, possibly, and maybe some kid that would be hunting turkey. However, a kid of the age that would be hunting a turkey that would have to use a .410, I just don't believe he would be fitting in the turkey hunting field. I would go along with banning the .410, but that only.

MR. VEILLON: I take Mr. Thompson's point about the size of the shot. Possibly this can be deferred until further study, but I don't think there is any opposition to using a .410. It is detrimental to the birds and possibly this could be included this year.

MR. THOMPSON: I would still like to see that held over, as we are doing the rifle, so that at our June meeting in Alexandria we could get comments. There is no telling what is going to arise just from our conversation here today. This will spread out all through the state and you probably can disseminate some of it at your meeting in Shreveport and I certainly will try to. I think



that possibly we should travel with a little caution. Maybe we ought to leave it as is until after our June meeting and then formulate new plans for the next season of '75. That would be my recommendation. I would like to see it that way.

MR. VEILLON: As long as it is going to be considered along with the possible restriction of rifles, then I certainly would be in agreement to go ahead and take a further look at it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there any other discussion?

MR. HERRING: I would just like to recommend that we continue the season as is this year with the shotgun and not delete the .410 or anything else.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recommendation. Do I have a motion?

MR. WILLE: I so move.

MR. THOMPSON: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Wille moved, Mr. Thompson seconded. All those in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Opposed, no.



(No response)

THE CHAIRMAN: The ayes have it. So ordered.

(The full text of the resolution is here made a part of the record.)

WHEREAS the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission has received four written requests for the use of rifles to hunt turkey, and

WHEREAS the Commission did have rifle seasons in 1968-69 and then cancelled them due to several hunter problems, and

WHEREAS the Commission has closed certain areas for turkey hunting in 1974 and has several other turkey areas being affected by the flood, and

WHEREAS, Louisiana is in the process of building up our turkey flocks with a trapping and transplanting program, and



WHEREAS the 1973-74 turkey season has been printed in the brochure, and

WHEREAS, turkey hunting is a quality type of hunting rather than a quantity type of hunting, and

WHEREAS, turkeys can be shot from long distances in fields and trees without the skill of calling turkeys, and

WHEREAS we would like to contact states that permit the use of rifles and have their latest views,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that rifles not be permitted for the taking of wild turkey during the 1974 hunting season.

MR. HERRING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Under other business, we have as of now a chairman only and I believe it might be time that we elect a vice-chairman.

MR. JONES: It is my pleasure to nominate as vice-chairman Marc Dupuy. We lawyers have to stick together.



THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the nomination. Do we have any other nominations? Mr. Doyle Berry asked for the privilege of seconding it first, I believe, so we will have to recognize Mr. Berry. Any other nominations?

MR. BERRY: I move that nominations be closed.

MR. THOMPSON: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved and seconded that nominations be closed. Is there any opposition? (No response) No opposition. Then I rule that, Mr. Dupuy, that you have been elected by acclamation.

MR. WILLE: I would like to say one thing before Mr. Dupuy does, that Marc has just done a remarkable job, and I think all of the rest of the Commission feels this way. He has done more than was required as a Commissioner. He has worked harder than anybody that I know of myself to better wildlife and has the Commission at heart and I think that the nomination of Mr. Dupuy is probably one of the best things we have done this year.

THE CHAIRMAN: Since we have a long way to



travel, we will allow Mr. Dupuy 15 seconds for an acceptance speech, if he so desires.

MR. DUPUY: Thank you very much, Don, for your kind comments and, gentlemen, for your confidence.

THE CHAIRMAN: Now we have under other business the setting of the June meeting.

MR. JONES: I move we authorize the Director to make arrangements for the June meeting with the hotel-motel in Alexandria on the dates that he can find available.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission, there are two Friday and Saturday dates open, the 21st and 22nd and the 28th and 29th. I would suggest that we choose the date of the 21st and 22nd of June, not carrying it too close into July. Doing it today would give ample time for the news media to spread the word around that we are having a meeting and that the dates have been set, so I would recommend the 21st and 22nd.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recommendation.



MR. JONES: I so move.

MR. DUPUY: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Dupuy. All those in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: All opposed, no.

(No response)

So ordered.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: That will be at the Ramada Inn in Alexandria on the 21st and 22nd of June.

THE CHAIRMAN: Now we have with us Mr. Sonny Summersgill, who has asked to be heard. Mr. Summersgill.

MR. SUMMERSGILL: My name is Sonny Summersgill and when Mr. Jones opens his mouth, I just have to think of what Bob LeFleur always says. Should I refrain from repeating the statement?

MR. JONES: Let it roll.

MR. SUMMERSGILL: He maintains that we will revert to lawyers and insects no matter what we do. (Laughter)



The Interstate Commerce Commission is again giving the nutria industry a problem on the shipping of nutria meat since it is on the classified list. The United States Examiner will be in Baton Rouge on the 15th and 16th. I think we are looking at the original date and we received the amendment to it, I believe. It is going to be on the 15th and 16th, 9:30, and briefly what happens when the ICC classifies a commodity, you have got to have the authority or the right to carry it.

The bulk of our nutria goes into Texas. Nobody has the authority to carry this product but we are disobeying the law by shipping it because we are using unauthorized carriers, even though the government is the consumer.

The Examiner will be there and I would request -- I am going to try to make all of this as brief as possible -- request of the Commission that most definitely Mr. O'Neil be made available and possibly somebody else who could show what damage could happen to the estuarine area, the marsh area, the lowlands, if the nutria were allowed to remain unharvestable. That would be the first



request that I would ask of the Chairman, that the Commission express its viewpoint on how important it is that we are allowed to ship this item out of state.

I don't think that any of this will require resolution form. I am just bringing you up to date and I will keep Mr. O'Neil and the Chairman and Mr. Yancey posted.

The second thing that I would like to ask is that in the development of what we refer to as the unutilized species in the fisheries, mainly what you would call scrap or industrial fish, the small croaker, the silver eel, there has been a tremendous market developed for it into the Japanese area. We have had three groups visit. We have got the Nippon group who will be here next week. Then the kamaboku group should be here the first week in March.

The feds have done a good job for us on resource assessment and the development of a separator trawl, which Dr. St. Amant is aware of, which has done a good job on the West Coast. We are only 75 percent efficient here. When the shrimp hit the



net, they jump, and the fish stay along the ground line, so what it involves is two bags. Just giving you an idea what they have done for us.

We feel that in conjunction with this the State should also -- this will be a gigantic industry and again, to repeat myself, utilization of an unutilized species and will generate an awful lot of income for our area, for the state of Louisiana. Because of our estuarine area, our nursery area, the area that you people control, where a very important part of their life cycle is, we feel that the same type application should be made to the small fishes as has been made to the shrimp crop. I refer to your meeting that you deferred to the 29th and 30th.

We would like to have the same thing, since this type contract is handled on a yearly basis. It doesn't fluctuate daily, such as shrimp, for example. They buy in tons; they don't buy in pounds. We would be dependent upon being able to make predictions of crops for the following year, which would mean almost identical to the counting of the recruitment of post-larval shrimp, for



example, or the checking of the salinity count that is required to support the life cycle of the animals to which we have reference.

Along with this, as these envoys of various groups come into the area, they are not worried about the quality of our croaker. For years, the five majors, Taiyo, Suisson, Gyogyo, Mitsui and Mitsubishi, which is Japan, have determined that it is of the best quality to make their otoshimi, sirimi, or kamaboku. Their main concern is how much we can produce, and it would have to be a combined voice of those people who have the expertise in the nursery area and the feds, who can give us the resource assessment of standing offshore stocks. With that combination we would more than satisfy their requirements.

I would ask along those lines that when they do come into the area, please don't misunderstand this because this is strictly business, that in the event that they would like to visit a certain marsh area -- just pick out anything -- and perhaps take one day, or if it should be an overnight type thing, where there will be four, five



or six of them, that you could possibly make available a place for them to stay, such as Pass a Loutre. We would supply food, grub, transportation. They would need a place to stay so as not to have to come back and forth, for example, to New Orleans.

I would ask the State to participate this way. Before you ask the question that I am sure will be asked -- you are going to ask what -- well, I could be really trite and come up with something like "Don't say what you can do for me but what I can do for you." "Why should we do this for you? What have you done for us?"

Well, we realize that we have been hanging on the coattails but, first of all, don't confuse my following statement with that of menhaden, even though menhaden is classified as an industrial fish. Mr. Swindell is in the office of Wallace Menhaden and I am sure he is going to want to rebut what I have to say. Since the other fisheries pay for their share and the underlying current that I have sort of picked up out of the Baton Rouge area is that our fisheries should be taxed on a pro-rated such-and-such, I will be the first to say that I



would not oppose this type taxation, with one provision, that it be used for research and evaluation purposes of the fisheries -- I am not limiting it to a snail or a croaker -- and should there be a surplus that this remain for that specific use and not be turned into the general fund.

The help that we need, with the conjunction of that, can produce many thousands of dollars and this would take twelve dissertations to come up. Briefly that handles that. I would like to thank you for the help in our nutria sales and thank Mr. Marler for his request for the extension, and tell you that there was no problem on sales and tell Mr. Jones that the trapper should have received his product. On April 15 there will be a food fair in Tokyo. Five products from Louisiana were shipped by us. They were oysters, silver eel, which is a cutlet fish, croaker, frozen crawfish and, believe it or not, the haunches of the nutria.

Now in the United States we can't sell the nutria because it is not killed in a federally inspected slaughterhouse. For export purposes they will determine the value or the quality of the



product by total plate count and selected plate count.

All of this has, I guess, brought up some questions. If there is anything at all that I can answer on any of this, I would be more than glad to do so.

MR. THOMPSON: I have several, Sonny, if you would remain at the microphone. First of all, I would wholeheartedly go along with making available our camps and installations for this meeting when this group of people comes.

MR. SUMMERSGILL: Would you also make available some of your biologists? In other words, I can be Joe Salesman and say, "Sitting under this table for 12 bears," but from a biologist through their interpreter, they would say, "Well, this is the State, so this guy knows what he is talking about." Would that be possible?

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Summersgill and Mr. Thompson, our Director has that power and we do not, to make available the biologists. Correct me if I am wrong.

MR. THOMPSON: Let me just question him



a little bit and then I think Burt can gather what you want there. I personally would be wholeheartedly in accord with going along with the biologists on the scene because, as you said, you didn't know where we fit, but you are a fishery industry, and the name of this organization is Wild Life and Fisheries, so you definitely fit. You definitely have a place and a notch in our program.

The only thing, the question that comes to my mind, and I think your No. 2 request was that you would like to have experiments, et cetera, done from this office, in regard to this particular product or, as you said, bringing in the whole spectrum, not only just the croaker but the whole spectrum, and I would like to ask several questions.

I could make a statement first, probably. You know all of this takes money and I don't think -- I may be wrong -- I don't think we have anything budgeted, any monies budgeted for such an organization or activity in our organization, and following that, I would like to ask, do you and your organization pay a severance tax or any type tax at all?

MR. SUMMERSGILL: No, sir. All we do --



MR. THOMPSON: Would you have any objection?

MR. SUMMERSGILL: All we do is sit and -- would you excuse me, please, for just one second?

MR. THOMPSON: Yes, go right ahead.

(Pause) Sonny, to go back to what I am asking --

MR. SUMMERSGILL: I understood your question. I am prepared to answer it now. The first part of my answer is, all we have done is receive information and we have not donated any severance tax. We pay a big giant total for five boats that can carry a thousand tons of fish, I think we paid \$25 apiece, per boat. That is all we pay.

Personally, I just happen to be here acting not only in my -- well, that statement will be misunderstood. I happen to be the largest of the frozen suppliers. Now compared to menhaden, I am a drop in the bucket. The Japanese are talking of buying in increments of 10,000 tons per reefer load. Now I would certainly go along paying our share. Now please understand that menhaden produces much, much more than I do. I am saying this on Mr. Swindell's behalf as well as the Commission



because I am sure I am going to get my turn when I sit down.

Not to hold any particular figure in point, but an approximate figure of \$1 a ton, a projection within four or five years would be \$40 or \$50,000 from our small industry, because there are going to be three others.

Let me regress. We had a meeting in Biloxi and we formed a combine which -- before anybody jumps up; I don't want one lawyer to jump up -- is not against the anti-trust law on export sales to form a combine and form a fixed buyer's price and a fixed seller's price. We have formed the Northern Gulf combine to sell to the Japanese. We would be more than willing to pay for our share. It is of the utmost importance to be able to predict what the next year's crop will be. That will be in total conjunction and I will have to ask either Mr. Schafer or Dr. St. Amant or somebody to tell me why it cannot be done in conjunction with the post-larval shrimp count or a week later or a month earlier or X. I see no great investment. We have got the vessels. They are in the areas



at about the same time. Is that correct, Doc?

DR. ST. AMANT: I wouldn't guarantee to get the kind of data you want by the same action.

MR. SUMMERSGILL: In your opinion, could we establish a basic projection of what the -- naturally, excluding acts of God, a 15-foot flood, low salinity, low temperature and all of that --

MR. JONES: To get to the point, you project how much you all are willing to pay in taxes. Why don't you just give it to us now in cash? You don't have to go over and beat around the bush and pass a tax law and all that. You said you are willing to pay in five years, \$50,000; just give us \$10,000 a year and we will do research with it and get it over with.

MR. THOMPSON: Well, I have in mind a severance tax. I don't know how you all have escaped a severance tax all these years. Certainly if you want to receive you have got to pay. Would you have any objection?

MR. SUMMERSGILL: No, no objection whatsoever.

MR. THOMPSON: I am speaking not only of



you. I am speaking of the whole industrial fish industry!

MR. SUMMERSGILL: The spectrum that you have involved includes menhaden.

MR. JONES: Ed, do you all pay severance tax on menhaden?

MR. SWINDELL: No.

MR. JONES: No, they don't pay a severance tax.

MR. SUMMERSGILL: I am speaking -- please understand this, gentlemen -- I have reference to that which is caught on the bottom. Mine is a ground fish. The menhaden is a top-water fish. They are both under the broad spectrum of industrial fish. One is used for meal, the other is used for either cat food or human consumption.

MR. THOMPSON: Well, Sonny, is research needed on both species? There is definitely coming a time -- it is already here, I might say --

MR. SUMMERSGILL: The last work done on croaker was in 1967 by Charles Rothmire and the extent of his coverage was sitting on the dock at the Quaker Oats plant in Pascagoula, counting the



fishes that came in, and to my knowledge he doesn't even know where it was caught. Now you are talking about seven years ago, and we are developing a multi, multi, multi-million dollar product that will be located in Louisiana, but there will be some assistance needed. What it will be, it will be a coordinated effort. You will go up to X and from there the feds will pick it up and go on up. They will not come in within six fathoms and you probably won't have to go further than the beach or the pass area, which would closely resemble the shrimp program.

MR. THOMPSON: Well, I would like to recommend that we go on record as being for a severance tax on the industry with this severance tax being dedicated to the research. I don't know the exact terminology you would want to use, but I will just say the research of these fishes, both menhaden -- everything in the whole bag -- without the surplus going into the general fund. Let me get that in, too. You have stated that already but I definitely have very strong feelings about it, about any of our monies going into general funds,



even though maybe we would use \$2 this year and we might need \$4 next year.

MR. SUMMERSGILL: This would require, if you are going to put them both in the same hat, some very delicate conferences. These are all figures just for approximate purposes. If croaker paid \$1, the menhaden might pay 15 or 25 cents a ton, because their volume is that much more than ours is.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Summersgill, may I interject something? I believe, when we are talking about taxes, you are going to have to go before the legislature for that. Our body will not have anything to do with passing any taxes, severance taxes or anything else.

MR. SUMMERSGILL: Mr. Chairman, if I introduced or attempted to have one of my local legislators introduce a tax bill, I would probably make the cartoons on the editorial page, trying to tax myself. I will support the bill wholeheartedly in any way, shape or form. I would like to see it put on as an administration bill so that the money would be some of the quickest forthcoming put on by



anybody, preferably not from somebody in our area. Those that will be in favor of it will be all the rest of the fisheries who are now paying severance taxes and they know we are not.

MR. DUPUY: Mr. Summersgill, maybe you could develop it in the lines of a research grant for technical study.

MR. SUMMERSGILL: Mr. Dupuy, would that limit us? You are using the word "grant". Legally would that limit us to certain period of time? We would like this to be a continuing effort, as would be with a severance tax.

MR. THOMPSON: May I recommend that Dr. St. Amant be empowered to make a research into this situation and see approximately the monies needed, sources that could be obtained. We may be up the wrong tree here. I would say that we let this lie over and let Dr. St. Amant come back to us with a little more information.

THE CHAIRMAN: Fine.

MR. SUMMERSGILL: Basically what I am saying is that I think most of the gentlemen in the audience know Mr. Bullis, who is out of Miami, who



controls all the research, who controls the research vessels. He is aware of the fact of the request that I am making today and he has stated that he will be more than happy to work everything through MTF, through the computer facility, so that we can come out on punchcard and hopefully state -- most of the time the biologists hit the shrimp crop very, very well. They can't predict too much rainfall or not enough or this or that. What we do need again is when these Japanese come down here to hear a voice from somebody like Dr. St. Amant or Mr. Yancey or anybody appointed, whoever would go, that would say, yes, our area is the richest in nutrients; yes, our nursery area is the finest; yes, our estuarine area --

MR. JONES: Sonny, we have told you we are going to do all that.

MR. SUMMERSGILL: Yes, I am trying to summarize it.

MR. JONES: I don't know what we are talking about. I mean I am a nice guy but we said we were going to do all that for you. Now what else do you want?



MR. SUMMERSGILL: I want to ask to be empowered to discuss with Mr. Angelle or to ask Mr. Angelle to appoint those representatives that he feels would be most influential at the Interstate Commerce hearing in Baton Rouge. I want that totally understood, please.

MR. JONES: Burt can do that. We don't have to do that.

THE CHAIRMAN: Our Director has the power. He can do all the things you are asking about.

MR. JONES: He runs the show.

THE CHAIRMAN: All you have to do really, Mr. Summersgill, is to talk with Mr. Angelle.

Now from Mr. Summersgill's remarks, I gather perhaps that Mr. Swindell might have something to say. Would you state your name for the record and come forward?

MR. SUMMERSGILL: The call that came in while I was talking came in from Mr. Rivers, who is the executive associate to the treasurer, and the screw worm eradication program today was granted 3.7 million dollars for the continued purchase of the balance of the nutria meat which is lying in



cold storage in the state.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Summersgill. I recognize Mr. Swindell.

MR. EDWARD SWINDELL: I am Ed Swindell and I am with Wallace Menhaden Products. We really deal with only 20 percent now of the menhaden catch in the state of Louisiana. I can't speak for the rest of the industry but I can't see any of our industry being in favor of a severance tax as such.

MR. JONES: That is something that has to be studied, I believe, Ed.

MR. SWINDELL: I believe so. We have done most of our work, I believe, with the federal government and I think they are presently funding some studies or helping fund some studies in the state of Louisiana on our menhaden population within the state, but it is more of a national resource than it is just a state resource. That is why we have gone the federal way.

MR. SUMMERSGILL: Is our menhaden population resident?

MR. SWINDELL: That is still yet to be determined. Are there any other questions?



THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, if you have a question to ask, would you please hold up your hand so I can recognize you. I would like to keep this thing in order, and impromptu questions from the audience cannot keep it in order. I am sorry. Do any of you have any other comments?

MR. WILLE: Before adjournment here I would just like to recognize Mr. Edgar Veillon and Mr. Stanek in our audience. They are having their Wildlife Federation convention in Shreveport, of which I am very proud, that they are coming up to North Louisiana to have their convention March 15, 16 and 17. I think that all the Commissioners have received an invitation to this thing.

I would like, if it is in order, Mr. Chairman, to ask the Commission to make a proclamation declaring the Wildlife Federation as being one of the biggest supporters of our Commission and having them recognized either statewide or areawide of this convention. Now is that possible?

THE CHAIRMAN: What is the pleasure of the Commission? It doesn't require any action, does it? Let it be shown that Mr. Wille has



requested this.

Before you adjourn, let me ask if there is anyone else in the audience who wants to be heard. Mr. Veillon.

MR. EDGARD VEILLON: Mr. Chairman, I would just like to mention this. I think that most of you all know that on February 13 and 14, there was a Coastal Zone Management Conference held in Baton Rouge, the first of its kind, and Mr. Cameron Webster of the Louisiana Shrimp Association and myself, co-moderated a seafood and wildlife panel. Mr. O'Neil served on the panel with us and Mr. Dupuy was in attendance at the workshop.

I would just like to mention that it was well attended. It was a very active session. We did have eight different interests represented there, which pretty much caused a fragmentation of viewpoints as to what was needed and how it should proceed. About the only thing that they really agreed on was that something of this type was needed. That was unanimous. The area that had the most dissension, I guess you might say, was as to the makeup of the Commission. It was suggested



that there should be all special interests, no special interests, and a combination of the two. As far as I know, that covers the gamut pretty good. (Laughter)

I just wanted to distribute a copy of the comments that came out of that discussion and also a list of the panel members who took part in it as a reference to the Commission when it may be needed in the future.

With reference to Mr. Wille's comments about going to Shreveport, the Governor was up there and he spoke to us Wednesday night and we thanked him for coming to Shreveport. He has committed that he would be at the convention. He looked over at my name tag and said, "With a name like Veillon, you had better stay the hell out of Shreveport. If you go up there at all, you had better go at night!" (Laughter)

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Stanek, did you have anything you wanted to say?

MR. STANEK: No, thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Anyone else in the audience want to be recognized? (No response)



If not, I will entertain a motion to adjourn.

MR. JONES: I so move.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved that we adjourn.

MR. WILLE: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: We stand adjourned.

. . . Thereupon, at 11:40 o'clock a.m., Tuesday, February 19, 1974, the regular monthly Board meeting of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission was adjourned. . . .

Kathryn G. Chamberlin,
Reporter.

